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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/929,888	08/15/2001	Takehiko Nakano	SONYJP 3.0-199	9309

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EXAMINER

BATURAY, ALICIA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2155

DATE MAILED: 08/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/929,888

Applicant(s)

NAKANO ET AL.

Examiner

Alicia Baturay

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 June 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 August 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/929,888.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 07022004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to the amendment filed 06 June 2005.
2. Claims 1-11 were amended.
3. Claims 12-19 were added.
4. Claims 1-19 are pending in this Office Action.

Response to Amendment

5. The examiner appreciates Applicant's cooperation in correcting errors in the specification.
6. The objection to the specification regarding minor informalities was addressed and is withdrawn.
7. The objection to the claims regarding minor informalities was addressed and is withdrawn.
8. The rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph regarding insufficient antecedent basis was addressed and is withdrawn.
9. Applicant's amendments and arguments with respect to claims 1-19 filed on 06 June 2005 have been fully considered but they are deemed to be moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Croÿ et al. (U.S. 6,476,825) and in further view of Humpleman et al. (U.S. 6,466,971).

Croÿ teaches the invention substantially as claimed including a control device for controlling and monitoring an electronic device capable of reproducing video programming.

12. With respect to claim 1, Croÿ teaches a method of controlling an information processing apparatus connected to a plurality of control devices over a network the method comprising:

Selecting, at a given one of the plurality of control devices, a specific one of a plurality of portions of the information processing apparatus; transmitting, from the given one of the plurality of control devices to the information processing apparatus, identification information corresponding to the selected one of the plurality of portions and identification information corresponding to the given one of the plurality of control devices and controlling the associated portion of the information processing apparatus based on the control request (Croÿ, col. 17, lines 32-47).

Croy does not explicitly teach the use of multiple control devices or a correspondence table.

However, Humpleman teaches storing the identification information corresponding to the selected one of the plurality of portions and the identification information corresponding to the given one of the plurality of control devices in a control correspondence table of the information processing apparatus such that the identification information corresponding to the selected one of the plurality of portions is associated with the identification information corresponding to the given one of the plurality of control devices (Humpleman, col. 6, lines 39-48); repeating the selecting step, the transmitting step and the storing step to associate the identification information corresponding to a further one of the plurality of control device with the identification information corresponding to a further one of the plurality of portions (Humpleman, col. 6, lines 39-65); transmitting a control request from the given one of the plurality of control devices or from the further one of the plurality of control devices to the information processing apparatus, the control request including the identification information corresponding to the transmitting control device; and referring to the control correspondence table to obtain the identification information corresponding to the portion of the information processing apparatus that is associated with the identification information corresponding to the transmitting control device (Humpleman, col. 6, lines 58-65).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Croy in view of Humpleman in order to enable the use of multiple control devices and a correspondence table. One would be motivated to do so in order to allow for devices to be controlled from different controllers.

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13. With respect to claim 2, Croÿ teaches the invention described in claim 1, including the method where the given one of the plurality of control devices and the further one of the plurality of control devices each transmit to the information processing apparatus through an IEEE 1394 digital interface (Croÿ, col. 4, lines 38-47).

14. With respect to claim 3, Croÿ teaches the invention described in claim 1, including selecting, at a given one of the plurality of control devices, a specific one of a plurality of portions of the information processing apparatus (Croÿ, col. 17, lines 32-47).

Croÿ does explicitly teach the use of an AV/C Panel Subunit Model and Command Set.

However, Humpleman teaches the method where the selecting step includes sending a first pass-through command to the information processing apparatus from the given one of the plurality of control devices or from the further one of the plurality of control devices, and the controlling step includes sending a second pass-through command to the information processing apparatus from the given one of the plurality of control devices or from the further one of the plurality of control devices, the first and second pass-through commands being respectively chosen from an AV/C Panel Subunit Model and Command Set (Humpleman, col. 11, lines 42-48).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Croÿ in view of Humpleman in order to enable the use of an AV/C Panel Subunit Model and Command Set. One would be motivated to do so in order to allow for the use of a standardized command set.

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15. With respect to claim 4, Croÿ teaches the invention described in claim 1, including the method where the associated portion of the information processing apparatus is operable to reproduce software information recorded on a digital versatile disc (Croÿ, col. 20, line 59 – col. 21, line 4).
16. With respect to claim 5, Croÿ teaches the invention described in claim 1, including the method where the given one of the plurality of control devices and the further one of the plurality of control devices each transmit to the information processing apparatus through a wireless communication interface (Croÿ, col. 4, lines 32-34).
17. With respect to claim 6, Croÿ teaches the invention described in claim 5, including the method where wireless communication is carried out using the Bluetooth communication standard (Croÿ, col. 26, lines 37-42).
18. With respect to claim 7, Croÿ teaches the invention described in claim 5, including the method where wireless communication is carried out over infra-red wavelength (Croÿ, col. 4, lines 32-34).
19. With respect to claim 8, Croÿ teaches the invention described in claim 1, including the method where the associated portion of the information processing apparatus is operable to reproduce audio visual information recorded on a hard disc (Croÿ, col. 20, line 59 – col. 21, line 4).

20. With respect to claim 9, Croÿ teaches the invention described in claim 1, including the method where at least one of the given control device and the further control device is a digital television receiver (Croÿ, col. 21, lines 7-10).

21. With respect to claim 10, Croÿ teaches an information processing apparatus connectable to a plurality of control device over a network, the information processing apparatus comprising:

A plurality of portions, a specific one of the plurality of portions being selected by a given one of the plurality of control devices (Croÿ, col. 5, lines 39-44) and to control the associated portions of the information processing apparatus based on the control request (Croÿ, col. 17, lines 32-47).

Croÿ does not explicitly teach the use of multiple control devices or a correspondence table.

However, Humpleman teaches a receiver operable to receive identification information corresponding to the selected one of the plurality of portions and identification information corresponding to the given one of the plurality of control devices; a storage unit operable to store the identification information corresponding to the selected one of the plurality of portions and the identification information corresponding to the given one of the plurality of control devices in a control correspondence table such that the identification information corresponding to the selected one of the plurality of portions is associated with the identification information corresponding to the given one of the plurality of control devices

(Humbleman, col. 6, lines 39-48); the receiver being further operable to receive identification information corresponding to a further one of the plurality of portions and identification information corresponding to a further one of the plurality of control devices; the storage unit being further operable to store the identification information corresponding to the further one of the plurality of portions and the identification information corresponding to the further one of the plurality of control devices in the control correspondence table such that the identification information corresponding to the further one of the plurality of portions is associated with the identification information corresponding to the further one of the plurality of control devices; the receiver being further operable to receive a control request transmitted from the given one of the plurality of control devices or from the further one of the plurality of control devices, the control request including the identification information corresponding to the transmitting control device (Humbleman, col. 6, lines 39-65); and a controller operable to refer to the control correspondence table to obtain the identification information corresponding to the portion of the information processing apparatus associated with the identification information corresponding to the transmitting control device (Humbleman, col. 6, lines 58-65).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Croÿ in view of Humbleman in order to enable the use of multiple control devices and a correspondence table. One would be motivated to do so in order to allow for devices to be controlled from different controllers.

22. With respect to claim 11, Croÿ teaches an information control system, comprising:

An information processing apparatus having a plurality of portions; and a plurality of control devices (Croÿ, Fig. 1; col. 4, lines 28-34); a given one of the plurality of control devices and a further one of the plurality of control devices each including: a selector operable to selecting a specific one of the plurality of portions (Croÿ, col. 5, lines 39-44).

Croÿ does not explicitly teach the use of multiple control devices or a correspondence table.

However, Humpleman teaches a transmitter operable to transmit to the information processing apparatus identification information corresponding to the selected one of the plurality of portions and identification information corresponding to that control device; the information processing apparatus including: a receiver operable to receive the identification information corresponding to the given one of the plurality of control devices and the identification information corresponding to its selected one of the plurality of portions, and a storage unit operable to store the identification information corresponding to the given one of the plurality of control devices and the identification information corresponding to its selected one of the plurality of portions in a control correspondence table such that the identification information corresponding to the given one of the plurality of control devices is associated with the identification information corresponding to its selected one of the plurality of portions (Humpleman, col. 6, lines 39-48), the receiver being further operable to receive the identification information corresponding to the further one of the plurality of control devices and the identification information corresponding to its selected one of the plurality of portions, the storage unit being further operable to store the identification information corresponding to the further one of the plurality of control devices and the

identification information corresponding to its selected one of the plurality of portions in the control correspondence table such that the identification information corresponding to the further one of the plurality of control devices is associated with the identification information corresponding to its selected one of the plurality of portions (Humpleman, col. 6, lines 39-65); the transmitter of the given one of the plurality of control devices and the transmitter of the further one of the plurality of control devices each being further operable to transmit a control request from the control device to the information processing apparatus, the control request including the identification information corresponding to that control device; the receiver of the information processing apparatus being further operable to receive a transmitted control request; the information processing apparatus further including: a controller operable to refer to the control correspondence table to obtain the identification information included in the received control request to obtain the identification information corresponding to the associated portion of the information processing apparatus, and to control the associated portion of the information processing apparatus based on the received control request (Humpleman, col. 6, lines 58-65).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Croÿ in view of Humpleman in order to enable the use of multiple control devices and a correspondence table. One would be motivated to do so in order to allow for devices to be controlled from different controllers.

23. With respect to claim 12, Croÿ teaches the invention described in claim 1, including selecting, at a given one of the plurality of control devices, a specific one of a plurality of portions of the information processing apparatus (Croÿ, col. 17, lines 32-47).

Croÿ does not explicitly teach sending the correspondence table from one apparatus to another.

However, Humpleman teaches the method further comprising transmitting the control correspondence table from the information processing apparatus to at least another information processing apparatus over the network (Humpleman, col. 8, lines 56-63).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Croÿ in view of Humpleman in order to enable sending the correspondence table from one apparatus to another. One would be motivated to do so in order to enable sending an entire table of associations between devices and portions rather than each association individually.

24. With respect to claim 13, Croÿ teaches the invention described in claim 10, including the information processing apparatus where the receiver of the information processing apparatus is further operable to receive a transmission from the given one of the plurality of control devices or from the further one of the plurality of control devices through an IEEE 1394 digital interface (Croÿ, col. 4, lines 38-47).

25. With respect to claim 14, Croÿ teaches the invention described in claim 10, including selecting, at a given one of the plurality of control devices, a specific one of a plurality of portions of the information processing apparatus (Croÿ, col. 17, lines 32-47).

Croÿ does explicitly teach the use of an AV/C Panel Subunit Model and Command Set.

However, Humpleman teaches the information processing apparatus where the receiver of the information processing apparatus is further operable to receive a pass-through command from the given one of the plurality of control devices or from the further one of the plurality of control devices, the pass-through command being chosen from an AV/C Panel Subunit Model and Command Set (Humpleman, col. 11, lines 42-48).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Croÿ in view of Humpleman in order to enable the use of an AV/C Panel Subunit Model and Command Set. One would be motivated to do so in order to allow for the use of a standardized command set.

26. With respect to claim 15, Croÿ teaches the invention described in claim 10, including the information processing apparatus where the associated portion of the information processing apparatus is operable to reproduce software information recorded on a digital versatile disc (Croÿ, col. 20, line 59 – col. 21, line 4).

27. With respect to claim 16, Croÿ teaches the invention described in claim 10, including the information processing apparatus where the receiver of the information processing apparatus is further operable to receive a transmission from the given one of the plurality of control

devices or from the further one of the plurality of control devices through a wireless communication interface (Croÿ, col. 4, lines 32-34).

28. With respect to claim 17, Croÿ teaches the invention described in claim 10, including the information processing apparatus where the associated portion of the information processing apparatus is operable to reproduce audio visual information recorded on a hard disc (Croÿ, col. 20, line 59 – col. 21, line 4).

29. With respect to claim 18, Croÿ teaches the invention described in claim 10, including selecting, at a given one of the plurality of control devices, a specific one of a plurality of portions of the information processing apparatus (Croÿ, col. 17, lines 32-47).

Croÿ does not explicitly teach sending the correspondence table from one apparatus to another.

However, Humpleman teaches the information processing apparatus further comprising a transmitter operable to transmit the control correspondence table from the information processing apparatus to at least another information processing apparatus over the network (Humpleman, col. 8, lines 56-63).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Croÿ in view of Humpleman in order to enable sending the correspondence table from one apparatus to another. One would be motivated to do so in order to enable sending an entire table of associations between devices and portions rather than each association individually.

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30. With respect to claim 19, Croÿ teaches the invention described in claim 10, including selecting, at a given one of the plurality of control devices, a specific one of a plurality of portions of the information processing apparatus (Croÿ, col. 17, lines 32-47).

Croÿ does not explicitly teach sending the correspondence table from one apparatus to another.

However, Humpleman teaches the information control system where the information processing apparatus includes a transmitter operable to transmit the control correspondence table from the information processing apparatus to at least another information processing apparatus over the network (Humpleman, col. 8, lines 56-63).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Croÿ in view of Humpleman in order to enable sending the correspondence table from one apparatus to another. One would be motivated to do so in order to enable sending an entire table of associations between devices and portions rather than each association individually.

Response to Arguments

31. Applicant's arguments filed 06 June 2005 have been fully considered, but they are not persuasive for the reasons set forth below.

32. ***Applicant Argues:*** Applicant states, "The patent does not disclose or suggest that the identifier corresponding to a sub-device is stored in the television set with identification information corresponding to the control device, and the patent does not disclose or suggest that this information is stored in a control correspondence table in the television set such that the identification information corresponding to a selected sub-device is associated with the identification information corresponding to a control device."

In Response: The examiner respectfully submits that Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

33. ***Applicant Argues:*** Applicant states, "Neither reference discloses or suggests a further controller."

In Response: The examiner respectfully submits that Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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34. ***Applicant Argues:*** Applicant states, “Neither Croÿ nor Yamagawa describes a control correspondence table in which a sub-device is associated with a control device, neither reference suggests referring to such a table.”

In Response: The examiner respectfully submits that Applicant’s arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

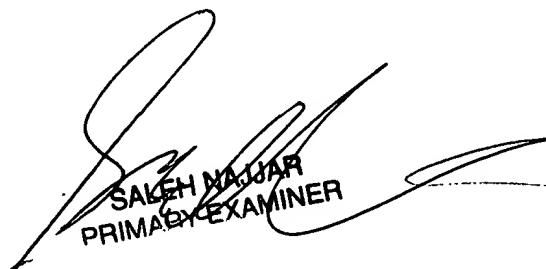
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alicia Baturay whose telephone number is (571) 272-3981. The examiner can normally be reached at 7:30am - 5pm, Monday - Thursday, and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on (571) 272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

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Alicia Baturay
August 10, 2005



SALEH NAJJAR
PRIMARY EXAMINER